



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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2 MAY 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
2 MAY 1966

1. Vietnam

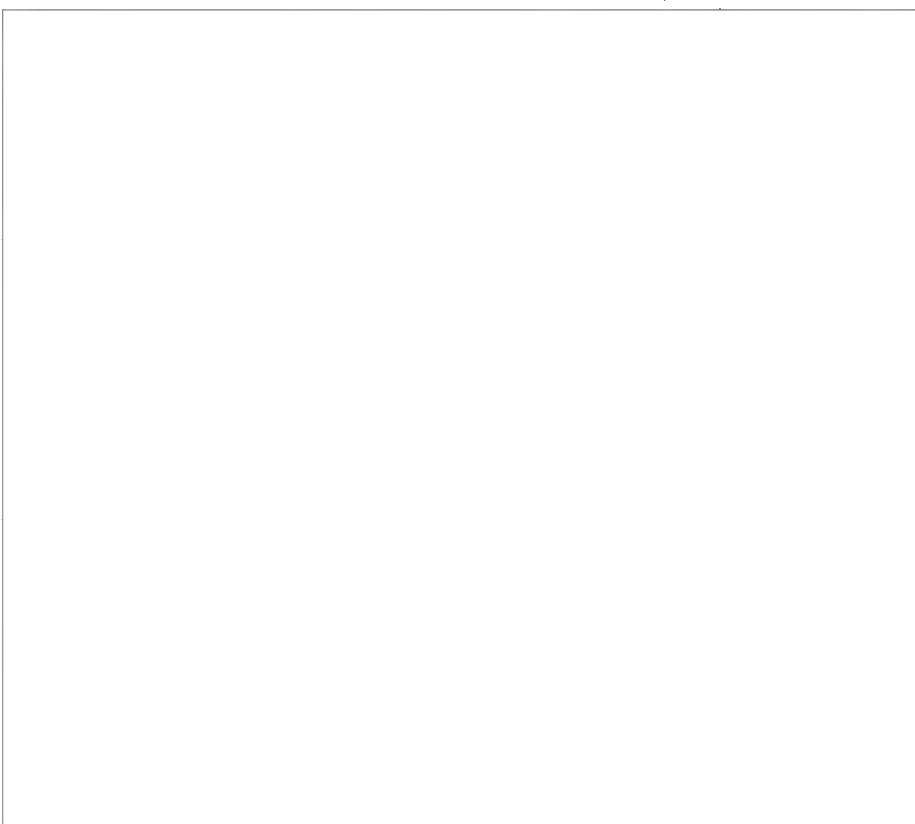
A recently captured document suggests Viet Cong use of Cambodian territory may be increasing. The document contains the minutes of an early April meeting during which Viet Cong officers discussed the problem of control over their personnel in Cambodia.

"Local chiefs" in Cambodia were said to be permitting the Viet Cong to establish "living and messing" facilities on a "long-term" basis and were giving gifts to sick and wounded Viet Cong.

Sihanouk has claimed publicly that he has denied the Communists permission to set up facilities inside Cambodia. At best, however, he has very limited control in the border areas, particularly in the isolated northeast corner of the country.

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2. South Vietnam



3. North Vietnam

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4. Thailand

The Communists are stepping up their terrorist activities in northeast Thailand. At least 25 village leaders and police informants have been assassinated so far this year. By contrast, there were only about 30 politically inspired murders in 1965 and ten or less in 1964.

At the same time, there have been more armed skirmishes as a result of stepped-up government operations. Here the efforts to improve the government's counterinsurgency capability are beginning to show results. Several sweep operations, for example, have been mounted recently

The villagers in remote areas are responding favorably to the increased government presence.

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5. Nationalist China

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6. Soviet Union

Soviet military officials have begun to comment on Marshal Malinovsky's recent references to a "Blue Belt" defensive system.

[redacted] is a "complex" of four elements--air defense, missiles, aircraft, submarines, and antimissile systems. The latter were said to be "in the process of being deployed."

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A Soviet admiral provided a similar explanation. He told the attaché that the "belt" is an "entire complex of several defensive systems which includes, among other things, Soviet submarines." He added that "obviously" aircraft and missiles are also part of the complex.

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7. Soviet Union

Statistics published by the Soviets on their fulfillment of the plan for the first quarter of the year fall in line with earlier indications that 1966 will be a time of economic retrenchment.

Moscow's figures do not show the pick-up which would be needed to meet many of the targets set in the new five-year plan (1966-1970). The Kremlin, however, evidently expects that its current efforts toward industrial reform will lead to higher rates and thus result in fulfillment of the 1970 goals.

Our analysis of the Soviet figures also tends to confirm that there has been some increase in the production of military and space hardware during the quarterly period.

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8. Congo (Brazzaville) The badly split radical regime in Brazzaville continues to limp along from one crisis to another. The problem now is the selection of a cabinet following the premier's recent resignation. This issue is so hot that the old cabinet--with a new premier--may have to stay on indefinitely. The man rather likely to get the premiership is considered to be one of the regime's leading extremists.

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